Tripartite treaty for development of AWACS

116. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently signed a Tripartite treaty with Israel and Russia for developing AWACS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds involved in the whole project; and

(d) the number of such AWACS planes that would be developed and where they would be deployed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No tripartite treaty has been signed with Israel and Russia for developing AWACS. However, a Memorandum of Principles and Order of Co-operation defining the scope of work and area of responsibility, has been signed by the Government of India, the Government of State of Israel and the Government of the Russian Federation.

(c) and (d) It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose this information.

Development of Indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System

117. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to develop its indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System;

(b) if so, whether help from other countries will be sought for this project;

(c) if so, the countries whose help will be obtained; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Indian Air Force and Defence Research and Development Organisation have jointly carried out a study and evolved the system level requirements for an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system. The project proposal is under evaluation at DRDO HQs.

(b) It is envisaged that help from other countries may be required for a suitably.modified aircraft platform. Limited consultancy may also be required for technologies such as system engineering and system integration.

(c) and (d) Such details are to be worked out.

Medium of Defence Service examinations

118. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to include Hindi to be one of the medium of defence service examinations;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a decision; whether this decision will put the aspiring candidates from the Hindi region at an advantageous position;

(c) whether Government propose to include all recognized regional languages in the question papers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The question papers of National Defence Academy (NDA), Naval Academy (NA) and Combined Defence Services (CDS) examinations are objective type in nature and printed only in English medium. Based on the resolution passed by Kendriya Hindi Samiti, it has been decided on 11.9.2003 that candidates appearing in NDA, NA and CDS examinations conducted by UPSC may be allowed the option of using Hindi Medium also. Government have decided to print the question papers for both these examinations, except the question papers on English language, bilingually.

2. The question of introduction of all the languages included in the eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India as medium of various examinations conducted by UPSC has been under consideration of the Government keeping in view the recommendations made by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee in this regard. Efforts are on to arrive at a consensus on this sensitive issue based on the recommendations of the Committee.